

FD # 235

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	25X1
TOPIC	Tamplin Troop Training Grounds		
EVALUATION	25X1	PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONTENT	3 to 29 May 1953		
DATE OBTAINED	25X1	DATE PREPARED	6 July 1953
REFERENCES			
PAGES	3	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
REMARKS			

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- 25X1 1. From 27 to 29 May 1953, extensive training was under way at the Kannenburg summer camp in the area southwest of Hammelspring. About 70 soldiers were engaged in aiming practice on 8 x 37-mm AA guns on 22 May. New signboards about 500 meters apart indicating that the area was off limits were on the western edge of the road between Hammelspring and Vogelsang. About 20 soldiers practiced aiming on 2 x 37-mm AA guns on 27 May, while 20 men were engaged in aiming practice on 2 x 132-mm rocket launchers and 25 soldiers practiced firing at practice targets. Trucks including trucks towing AT guns of 57-mm caliber carried a total of about 150 soldiers from the direction of Gross-Doelln toward Kannenburg summer camp. Trucks carrying ammunition from the direction of Zehdenick toward the camp. About 40 soldiers received training on 4 x 120-mm mortars in the training area southwest of Hammelspring on 28 May. Two T 34/85 tanks were at driving practices in this area on 28 May. About 50 soldiers received training on 122-mm field guns and 40 soldiers practiced aiming on four rocket launchers of 132-mm caliber on 29 May. Motor vehicles towing 12 x 120-mm mortars and carrying 120 soldiers. drove from the direction of Vogelsang toward the camp. Motor vehicles seen entering and leaving Camp Kannenburg.
- 25X1 2. From 3 to 22 May 1953, no new troops arrived at the Kannenburg firing range via Densow, Beutel, Roedelin and Annenwalde. The troops were engaged in combat training in the hilly area and also practiced camouflage. The firing restriction had been prolonged until 30 May. On 7 May, about 30 officers practiced with magnetic anti-tank charges on T 34/85 tank in Jagen (forest section) No 29. The green-painted training charges resembled former German magnetic charges which, however, were somewhat smaller. noticed two planks with an AT mine. Other infantry training was performed in Jagen (forest section) No 101 and Kannenburg inside the close camp circle. Driving practice with tanks was performed only at dusk as residents collecting wood were in the woods and the other area in daytime. A large number of the units stationed there conducted drivers' training and blasted duds. A large number of low wooden buildings were under construction and excavation work for

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- the erection of new low wooden buildings started in Jagen (forest section) No 45. [redacted] watchtowers would be built beside the low wooden buildings. Buildings of this type as well as watchtowers were also constructed on the eastern border of the firing range. Twenty German workers who were transported daily to this site [redacted] were employed there. On 18 May, a colonel [redacted] inspected the construction work on 18 May. A tent camp consisting of 10 tents was pitched up by an infantry unit of about 400 infantry men on Stuebnitz-See (lake) near Tangersdorf on 20 May. The unit was seen receiving basic drill in the area of Stuebnitz-See (lake). [redacted]
- On 21 May, [redacted] concrete structures were to be built in Jagen (forest section) No 101. [redacted] two large concrete mixers. Construction material arrived via Beutel. Three large foundation ditches had already been excavated. On 22 May, [redacted] a railroad track from Vogelsang railroad station toward Camp Hammelspring. The construction of this track had started about 4 weeks ago and was completed except for a stretch about 2,000 meters from the camp.
3. No military shipments arrived at or left the Templin railroad station from 16 to 22 May 1953. Pit props which arrived from the direction of the firing range were the only items loaded during the period of observation.
  4. From 11 to 22 May 1953, Soviet soldiers were employed to deforest the woods in the Beutel-Tangersdorf area. [redacted] the troop training grounds were to be enlarged toward the north. The civilian population was permitted to make use of the timber.
  5. Signboards indicating that the area was off limits were along the Vogelsang-Hammelspring road. Sentries and motor patrols were employed in the area immediately along the road.
  6. On 15 May 1953, soldiers received training on 152-mm gun howitzers, immediately along the road about 1 km south of Hammelspring. Trucks [redacted] and three half-track vehicles were nearby. On 18 May, a mortar unit and two rocket launchers of 132-mm caliber practiced in the area of the large Lanke See (lake). [redacted]
  7. [redacted] 1
  8. On 22 May 1953, the barracks installations northwest of Vogelsang were not occupied. Brick layers were still working on two barracks building while the kitchen was completed. Truck [redacted] was loaded in front of the kitchen and subsequently drove toward Camp Burgwall on 20 May.
  9. From 18 to 25 May, the construction of the new barracks installation northwest of Vogelsang made only little progress. As the transformer station in Hammelspring was damaged by a lightning stroke, the pumps and concrete mixers were without supply of current. Sedan [redacted] parked at the site on 20 May. 2
  10. An undetermined number of T-34 tanks was at the Templin railroad station on 23 May 1953. Motor vehicles [redacted] were observed at Camp Hammelspring. 1

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- 25X1 1. [ ] Comment. The information indicates that the Templin troop training grounds was still occupied by the 6th Gds Mecz Div, the 25th Tank Div and headquarters units of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army including an unidentified AT artillery brigade and units of the 63d AAA Div (US) until late May 1953. These units have, however, no gun howitzers. The information contained in paragraph 1 indicates that the column of 12 x 120-mm mortars belongs to the 25th Tank Div and thus rather safely to the unidentified mortar regiment of the division which is thus confirmed until 29 May 1953. [ ] The fire restriction until 30 May was probably due to the deforestation at the troop training grounds which was possibly made for a new training area or the construction of new installations. The tent camp on Stuebnitz See (lake) near Tangersdorf is on the north boundary of the training grounds. The location of Jagen (forest section) No 101 cannot definitely be stated. The description by source of paragraph 2 indicates that this forest section is in the area of Camp Kannenburg where it is, however, not entered in the 1:25,000 map. There is the possibility that new barracks buildings will be built in this forest section. No previous information is available to indicate a track between the Vogelsang railroad station and Camp Kannenburg.
- 25X1 2. [ ] Comment. The barracks installations in Vogelsang were previously reported [ ] to have been vacated by troops in mid-May to make possible a smooth execution of the construction work. [ ]
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